IN THE CLAIMS

Change "Patent Claims:" to --We claim --.

Please amend the following claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A spinneret for spinning thermoplastics ~~with~~ comprising a central polymer melt inlet passage, a ~~filer~~ filter arrangement ~~(2)~~ ~~comprised~~ comprising of a plurality of filter disks of different filter fineness which are fixedly bonded together by cold pressing, a spinneret plate ~~(3)~~ and a housing ~~(1),~~ which closely surrounds and receives the filter arrangement ~~(2)~~ and the spinneret plate, ~~(3)~~ ~~characterized in that~~ said filter arrangement ~~(2) has no~~ being free from a sealing enclosure and ~~is~~ comprised of a material with a higher thermal expansion coefficient than that of the material from which the housing ~~(1)~~ surrounding it is fabricated so that a press-fit seal able to sustain pressure of a polymer melt is formed directly between said filter arrangement and said housing.

2. (Currently Amended) A spinneret for spinning of thermoplastics ~~having~~ comprising a central polymer melt inlet passage, a filter arrangement ~~(2)~~ comprised of ~~one or more~~ at least one filter ~~disks~~ disk ~~of different filter fineness and optional type~~, a spinneret plate ~~(3)~~ and a housing ~~(1)~~ surrounding and receiving the filter arrangement ~~(2)~~ and the spinneret plate, ~~(3)~~ characterized in that the spinneret plate ~~(3) is~~ being comprised of a material with a higher thermal expansion coefficient than that of the material from which the housing (1) surrounding it is fabricated, so that a press-fit seal able to sustain pressure of a polymer melt is formed directly between said spinneret plate and said housing.

3. (Currently Amended) A spinneret for spinning of thermoplastics ~~having~~ comprising a central polymer inlet passage, a ~~filer~~ filter arrangement ~~(2) comprised~~ consisting of a plurality of filter disks of different filter fineness which are fixedly bonded together by cold pressing with one another, ~~and~~ a spinneret plate ~~(3)~~ and a housing ~~(1)~~ closely surrounding and receiving the filter arrangement ~~(2)~~ and the spinneret plate, ~~characterized in that the~~ said filter arrangement (2) ~~has no~~ being free from any sealing enclosure, ~~and the~~ said filter arrangement ~~(2)~~ and ~~the~~ said spinneret plate ~~(3) are~~ being comprised of materials with a higher thermal expansion coefficient than the material from which the housing ~~(1)~~ surrounding them is fabricated so that press-fit seals

able to sustain pressure of a polymer melt are formed directly between said filter disks and said housing and between said spinneret plate and said housing.

4. (Currently Amended) The spinneret according to claim 1, claim 2, or claim 3 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the spinneret plate ~~(3)~~ and~~/or~~ the filter arrangement ~~(2)~~ are composed of austenitic steel ~~like for example~~ selected from steel Nos. 1.4301, 1.4541[,] and 1.4580 ~~or a material~~ with a ~~similarly~~ relatively high thermal expansion coefficient and ~~that~~ the housing ~~(1) surrounding them~~ is fabricated from ~~a material with a lower coefficient of thermal expansion like, for example~~ steel No. 1.4057 ~~or a similar chromium steel or refractory material~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The spinneret according to claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3 characterized in that the dimensioning is so selected that the fit between the outer diameter of the spinneret plate ~~(3)~~ and~~/or~~ the filter arrangement ~~(2) on the one hand~~ and ~~the~~ a bore ~~receiving it~~ in the surrounding housing ~~(1) on the other hand~~ provides a slight play fit at room temperature which is transformed at operating temperatures based upon the different expansions of the parts, into a self-sealing radial press fit.

6. (Currently Amended) The spinneret according to claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3 ~~characterized in that the spinneret plate (3) is comprised of a material with a higher thermal expansion coefficient than the material of the housing (1) surrounding it and that~~ the spinneret plate ~~(3)~~ has ~~in its~~ a lower half ~~additionally~~ formed with a thread ~~provided which is~~ directly screwed into the housing ~~(1) whereby the thread and the stop of the spinneret plate (3)~~ and forming a stop in the housing ~~(1) are so~~ such ~~formed~~ that ~~the~~ a spinning orifice pattern of the spinneret plate always has the same orientation ~~so that the correct blast on the filaments as they are spun is ensured by the screwing of the spinneret plate (3) to its stop~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The spinneret according to claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3 characterized in that the housing (1) has at its lower end a projecting collar which has at least three grooves for receiving a tool for screwing the spinning system in and out and in that the spinneret plate (3) is thereby protected against detrimental contact during handling.